



*...and three more tourists can send postcards home about our 'wonderful' police*

## TV BOOST FOR 'SAVE A BABY' PETITION

THE Spastics Society's 'Save a Baby' campaign had a big boost on TV in May, and as a result thousands of volunteers have been recruited to help the Society — and promote the campaign petition in their own communities.

News of the campaign and the mammoth petition came on Granada's nationally networked programme 'Reports Action' on Sunday, May 21. Clips from the Society's new film, 'The Priority of Priorities — Save Our Babies,' were shown, and the viewers were told of the Society's big campaign to save thousands of babies from needless handicap.

One of the ways in which the Society hopes to influence the government to improve Britain's poor showing in the international statistics on infant

death and handicap, is with the biggest petition ever. Five million signatures are sought — this would be a world record — and 'Reports Action' appealed for volunteers to help achieve the petition target, and at the same time promote the vital campaign.

As the programme was being transmitted, hundreds of people telephoned in to offer their services. Within days, over 5,000 had volunteered. And the calls and letters are still pouring in to the programme.

The boost for the campaign on the programme — much sought after by publicists of good causes — was something of a coup for the Society's Information Department at head-

## Commons sequel to boy's ordeal

THE public outcry surrounding the case of the 11-year-old spastic boy Christopher de Martell who was made to get out of his wheelchair by a Medical Appeal Tribunal to see whether he could walk, had a sequel with a question asked in the House of Commons. Alf Morris, Minister for the Disabled, found himself drawn into the furore when Hugh McCartney, Labour MP for Dunbarton Central, asked if he was satisfied with the operation of the mobility allowance with regard to Chris.

Mr Morris said he had no reason to believe that the adjudication procedure was not working well.

He had made inquiries into the case and discovered that the residential school attended by Chris had stated that he could walk with crutches about a quarter of a mile, with an occasional stop to rest and added: 'He runs and plays with the other children to the best of his ability and joins in all activities.'

It was for this reason the Tribunal had asked Christopher to show how he could walk.

Mr Morris urged disabled people not to feel deterred from appealing against medical appeal tribunals if they wished to have their claims considered.

Continued on page 9



• AN arresting scene outside No 10 as Claudio Ramfagni, Enrico Millul and Roberta Mancini, three spastics from Italy, get to know a British Bobby.

In the picture right they pose with family and friends against that other familiar London backdrop, Buckingham Palace. Spastics News turned tourist, too, and accompanied them to see how they fared. London is a city geared to meet the needs of tourists from abroad — less geared to meet the needs of the handicapped. However, our visitors, in the hands of Ann Hithersay, of the Society's Recreational Services Department, with her extensive knowledge of access and facilities for the disabled, faced fewer problems than most who come to the United Kingdom's capital in a wheelchair.

Full story and more pictures on page 3.



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## 'Full life for disabled' call by North-West

'POSITIVE thinking for positive living': the message from the Society's North-West Regional Conference at Manchester was clear. In the 1980's society must provide the resources to enable disabled people to live their lives to the full. Speakers called for community living, integrated education, specialised public transport, leasing of adapted cars, mass availability of aids and an end to children living in sub-normality hospitals.

The Conference was attended by some 200 people, including Mr K. Long and Mr R. Shepherd of Top Ten Promotions. It was chaired by the Rt Rev E. R. Wickham, the Bishop of Middleton, who summed it up as a 'polemical conference,' showing that disabled people were not satisfied with their lot and wanted the resources which allowed self-help.

The conference got off to a lively start with a double act from Anne-Marie and Jim Mulligan, who are involved with de-institutionalising disabled people in the American state of Nebraska. Their philosophy is 'to see each person as a unique individual like myself.'

Based on their own experiences, Anne-Marie and Jim believe that NO person is too severely handicapped to be able to grow more outside an institution than inside it. Like The Spastics Society, they believe in the vital importance of disabled people having jobs commensurate with their abilities and desires.

'Aids must be available to all who need them' was the forthright message from Mr Chris Dunk, design consultant at the Research Unit for the Handicapped, St Bartholomew's Hospital, who described some of the work being done by the unit. The importance of aids was well illustrated by the case of Cynthia, a highly intelligent little girl unable to sit up until her life was changed by a foam seat—'Cynthia-shaped'—and alterable as she grows and improves. Cynthia is a changed person, developing very quickly now that she doesn't have to look at the world

lying on her back.

Barry James, secretary of the charity 'Motability' which devises ways of enabling the Mobility Allowance to be used for disabled people to run cars, put forward ideas for vehicle leasing.

Nigel Smith, senior regional officer, north west, put forward a powerful case for providing public transport for all. He called for a two-tier system of public transport. In urban areas the normal public transport system should be so modified to make it accessible to the less severely disabled, and it should be complemented by a specialised 'on-call' door-to-door system for the severely disabled using special vehicles. He also called for the designing and producing of a new minibus for the disabled, which would incorporate all the latest thinking in passenger safety.

In the afternoon session, three speakers looked forward to 'How it Should Be.' A Spastics Society Executive Council member, Mrs Eileen Milnes, told how adaptations and aids to the home and the purchase of a converted van had enabled her intelligent but severely disabled daughter Anne to live relatively independently in the family home after years at special school. She called for the universal availability of the type of help with home adaptations they had received from Cheshire County Council.

Miss Nan Berrington-Jones, senior advisor for the handicapped for Liverpool social services, presented a compre-

hensive paper, recognising dis- called for a variety of types of sheltered housing for differing life styles. In education, she urged that neighbourhood schools be made accessible to handicapped people although she thought there would always be a need for special schools for the very severely handicapped.

Miss Berrington-Jones called for the creation of multi-disciplinary teams, to support disabled people and their families, consisting of social workers, domiciliary physiotherapists, occupational therapists, home helps and GPs.

A powerful case for integration was put forward by Mr Chris Davies of the Wirral, an Open University student who is severely disabled by athetosis. Mr Davies, a former pupil of the Thomas Delarue School, applauded the Society's achievements, including his old school, but said he now felt the time had come for the Society to redirect its focus away from 'Grouping the disabled together in self-enclosed collections and start to place the handicapped person back into the outside society to which he ultimately belongs.'

In the final session, the Director of The Spastics Society, Mr James Loring, stressed the importance of the new Spastics Pool lotteries to fund-raising in the 1980s and reminded the conference of the importance of the 'Save a

James Loring, Director of The Spastics Society; Anne-Marie Mulligan, from the US; the Bishop of Middleton; Jim Mulligan; Barry James of Motability; Eileen Milnes, executive Council member and George Scrimshaw, Chairman of the North West Regional Co-ordinating Committee. Foreground is Chris Davies, a former pupil of the Society's Thomas Delarue School, who spoke at the conference.



Baby' campaign in ending the present failure to take action to preserve the innocent unborn. This failure he described as 'a great crime against humanity, a negative form of extermination practised by Governmental neglect.'

Mr Loring then laid great stress on the appalling plight of handicapped children in subnormality hospitals, where gross understaffing meant that children received very little by way of 'mothering' and stimulation. He referred to the 'Exodus' group of five charities, including The Spastics, which had resolved its campaign to end this situation by getting these children out of hospital.



SOME of the 200 delegates who attended the North West Regional Conference.

## Midlands opts for workshops and new ideas

MIDLANDS Regional Day was held at the University of Leicester, with a record attendance of over 430 people.

Instead of having a formal conference as in the past, three separate workshops had been organised all taking place simultaneously in separate lecture theatres. The workshops were repeated during the afternoon so that members of the audience could have an alternative choice, or if they did not wish to go to the workshops spend the time talking amongst themselves in the main reception hall or visiting the many exhibits and stands.

The workshop which attracted the greatest attention dealt with local government matters, and consisted of a team of experts drawn from the social services departments of the Greater Manchester City Council and Derbyshire County Council, the education department of Birmingham City Council, and the Derbyshire area health authority, together with a co-ordinator of the Disabled Information and

Advice Line.

Many members left this workshop adamant that they would be putting pressure upon their own social services departments to have a welfare rights officer appointed to deal with their problems, and also to see DIAL established in their areas.

In view of the increasing difficulty experienced by social services departments throughout the region to provide regular visiting facilities to the handicapped in the home, groups in the Midlands Region have for sometime been en-

## Reports from the Regions

couraged to have their own home visitors to take on this responsibility, and a workshop was again held by the regional social workers to explain the problems and indicate how home visitors could provide a most useful service in group areas.

The third workshop was equally important, but not possibly so exciting, namely how to raise more money, and time and again it came out there were really no new gimmicks or ideas, but existing fund-raising activities can often be improved if adequate thought is given to the problem well in advance of the actual event.

During the afternoon Mr Tony Frank, the Society's Assistant Director, Regions, spoke on the 'Save a Baby' Campaign, and made special reference to the Top Ten Promotions Lottery which is being organised, and the petition for which five million signatures are being sought. The final speaker was Mr Dorrien Belson, chairman of the Society, who outlined the future for The Spastics Society as he saw it.

Members left after tea with much to ponder upon and many said they were going back to their groups with a number of new, revitalising ideas.

M. R. Venables,

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# Disabled tourists enjoy London

## — Because police are 'wonderful'

THEY were changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace and — thanks to our London Police — Italians Roberta Mancini, Enrico Millul and Claudio Ramgani were able to watch. They had arrived in London the day before from Florence, where the British community had decided to sponsor a visit of disabled people to Britain, and The Spastics Society was making sure they had a good time.

Enrico, aged 26, and Roberta, 19, were the two chosen, and Claudio, 24, joined the party, paying his own way. A welcome supper for the group, which included Claudio's mother who had accompanied him, his sister Sandra who teaches Italian at a London comprehensive school, and Frida Boldri, a school friend of

Roberta's who had come as her attendant, was laid on at the Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre at Fitzroy Square.

The first day of their stay dawned fairly typically — not exactly cold and grey but far from summery. The party was joined by Naim McAleer who, before she joined the Disabled Living Foundation, had worked as an occu-



pational therapist in Italy for two years. Niam's fluent Italian, coupled with her appreciation of the problems of the disabled, were to prove invaluable.

Alf Biggs, the Fitzroy driver speedily had his charges seated in the Society's minibus and in the best traditions of a London cab driver pointed out scenes of interest as he drove to the first tourist

● **SOLDIERS** of the Queen in a glorious splash of scarlet march out of the Palace Courtyard, and there with the best position of all are Roberta and Claudio. Florence may have the Medicis but there's none that do compare with the British Grenadiers!

as a glimpse of a Guardsman?

It was the police who came to the rescue. A woman 'special' listened to the tale of woe of a party of Italians who had come so far and would have only this one chance of seeing the Guards and clicked her tongue sympathetically. 'Oh dear,' she exclaimed, 'it's too late to get you inside the Courtyard and there are so many people crowded round we'd never get you through the barriers... still if it was just a case of one or two...'

### Best view

On hearing that there were really just three, she made up her mind: 'Come with me and I'll see if we can't squeeze them in somehow,' she said. And it was the efforts of special policewoman (Grace to her colleagues) who ensured that Roberta, Claudio and Enrico found themselves in the very best positions of all — either side of the Palace's massive Central Gate once the Guards had marched in.

For half an hour they watched the scenes that more than anything else typifies London to the tourist. At one point Roberta asked with disbelief pointing at Buckingham Palace: 'Is this ALL the Queen's house?' And in a torrent of Italian Niam replied that not only was it all the Queen's house but she had several more as well dotted about the country. And just as Roberta was enchanted by the spectacle of English pageantry so the Mounted Police were obviously enchanted by her and a policeman casually ambled over for a chat. Both Roberta and Claudio speak English quite well and Claudio also speaks German.

### No work

Roberta is confined to her wheelchair — which she has emblazoned with radical slogans. She has just completed her second year at technical college and now does 'Completely nothing!' As a friend put it — 'Hard leisure for life!'

Enrico, too, is wheelchair bound, a student in the faculty of Letters and Philosophy at the University of Florence and has spent five years at the Institute of Art and now paints. Claudio can walk just a little and has a degree in law from Florence University. He would like to practise Law but with an expressive shrug of his shoulders explained: 'It is very difficult.'



● **ROBERTA**, with her flashing eyes and vivacious Italian beauty, made a welcome change where this police horse was concerned from football hooligans, militant marchers and demonstrations that have got out of hand.

Field Study Centre at Llanlivery, Cornwall. There the packed programme includes photography, yoga, horse-riding, bird watching and visits to the Cornish countryside.

As Roberta said: 'We have nothing in Italy like the things you have for the handicapped in Britain!'

What did they think of



● **THIS** must be London, there's Big Ben! Claudio, Roberta and Enrico were determined to see as many of the sights of London as they could, but a word of warning — if you are in a wheelchair, whether English speaking or not, you need a guide who not only knows the way around town, but also knows about required facilities for the disabled.

London so far? What impressed them above everything else was the orderliness of London — and, of course, our London police. 'They are really wonderful,' they said.

The agenda for their stay also contains shopping expeditions down Oxford Street and to Harrods, outings to Regents Park and the Zoo, visits to the National Theatre to see 'The Cherry Orchard' and a Beethoven concert at the Festival Hall and then a week at the Society's Churchtown Farm



● **FRIDA** and Roberta sum up the souvenirs on sale in Whitehall and, although they are easily accessible from a wheelchair, Roberta decides 'Non!'



● **IT** may look like an Italian pavement scene, but in fact it is St James's Park bathed in sunshine as Mamma Ramfagni divides up a home-made sandwich of Parma ham and crusty Italian bread for her daughter Sandra, Frida and Roberta.

Story by  
Liz Cook  
Pictures  
by Ray  
Christopher

'must' — Buckingham Palace.

Ann Hithersay, of the Recreational Services Department, who had drawn up a sight-seeing programme and made the sandwiches for the picnic lunch, was aghast at the scene that met her eyes. The approaches to the Palace were packed with tourists who had obviously been in place for hours. How would three spastics in wheelchairs get so much

## PREGNANCY TESTING

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London	01-222 0955
Manchester	061-236 7777
Sheffield	0742 738326

SN June 7



# Briefing . . .

on books, aids, holidays, services,  
to help you and your family

## Tops in holiday service

THE Spastics Pool's own travel service, Top Ten Travel, was introduced in 1970 to provide a comprehensive service for Pool supporters. In addition, the Company has three retail outlets in Bristol.

Handling holiday and travel inquiries for people in different parts of the United Kingdom comes second nature to the company. For the past few years, in association with The Spastics Society's Recreational Services, Top Ten Travel has organised a number of group holidays for clubs for the handicapped. Transport for the English and Welsh teams participating in the International Cerebral Palsy Games in Edinburgh in July has also been booked through Top Ten Travel.

There are a number of hotels and holiday villages that provide facilities for handicapped groups, particularly those using wheelchairs, but the golden rule is to plan well in advance. Group leaders requiring information on holidays or travel arrangements should contact Top Ten Travel Limited, 104 Stokes Croft, Bristol BS99 7QX. Telephone Bristol (0272) 45061.

## Adverts press home 'Save a Baby' message

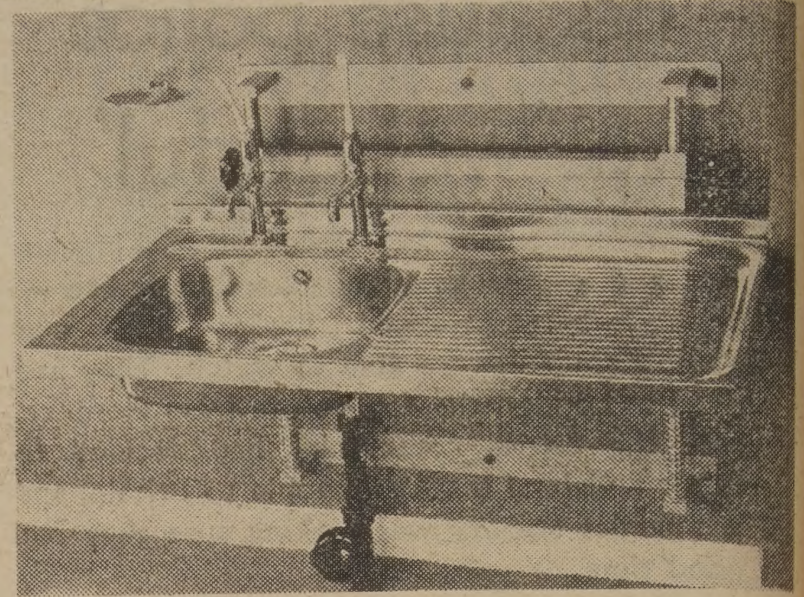
AN arresting, eye-catching and thought-provoking advertising campaign is hammering home the message of the 'Save a Baby' campaign. When people open their copies of their favourite daily, whether it is the Daily Mirror or The Times, or buy magazines such as Woman and Women's Own, they will see full page advertisements with a dramatic headline ranging from 'If you're born British, you could

be a born loser' to 'What's Britain got that France, Sweden, Finland and Japan haven't? — More dead and handicapped babies!'

Periodicals like Reader's Digest and the Radio Times are also included in the campaign which spells out the urgent need for research funds.

The advertising, which started at the end of April, goes on until September, and the Society has under-

written the considerable cost because it feels that the 'Save a Baby' campaign is one of the most important missions ever undertaken by a charity in this country. The only way to educate the public of the need for research is through information schemes of this type and for this reason a specific sum was set aside for the purpose. All money raised through the advertisements will go towards the research aimed at saving Britain's babies from needless death and handicap.



## New heights in sink design

THIS instantly adjustable kitchen sink unit is the latest addition to the Pressalit Rehab range and has been produced as a result of a wide demand from architects and occupational therapists.

It is designed to give a full range of operating heights for wheelchair access and individual standing requirements, and is easily adjusted by the two locking handles without any need for changing the plumbing because of the

flexible feed pipes and telescopic waste outlet.

The stainless steel sink is a Carron Silver Dove 1000 x 500mm with single drainer and 127mm deep shallow bowl for ease of wheelchair and knees movement, and is mounted on a special Pressalit frame of pylon coated steel which moves up and down on stainless steel rods. Flexible piping to the taps and a telescopic waste outlet are supplied together with Fischerbolts for ease of wall fixing. Approximate retail price is £250 excluding VAT and taps.

## Unhappy children

LOOKING to the future, the United Nations General Assembly has designated this the International Year of the Child. To mark the occasion, an international conference on 'The Child Under Stress' will be held in Monte Carlo from October 15-21, 1978.

Topics to be discussed will

include children with physical and mental handicaps. Among the speakers will be social psychologists, psychiatrists, educational therapists, paediatricians, teachers and other leading specialists in child welfare.

Further details are available from Caroline Roney, Medical Conference Organisers, 100 Park Road, London, NW1 4RN.

## The value of work

'INDUSTRY and Effort' is the title of a survey of day work centres in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, produced by The Spastics Society. The survey, which covered 26 centres, was carried out by Hilary Schlesinger, the Society's Research Officer, in collaboration with Edward Whelan, Director, Rehabilitation Research Project, Hester Adrian Research Centre.

The report concludes that existing work centres provide considerable enjoyment, social contact and a place in the community for people too severely handicapped for open employment. The type of work carried out enables them to feel that they were making a contribution to society.

However, the survey found that many of the workers wished for greater social independence, the opportunity to work better and to develop talents and interests. The researchers felt that these wishes could be fulfilled by taking more advantage of community resources and the latest technological and educational developments. The survey includes various recommendations for achieving this.

## A country chalet

LEA Castle Hospital in Worcestershire has opened a new fully-adapted holiday chalet which can be rented for a few days or a week by families with a handicapped member. There are laundry, 'baby sitting' and nursing services available, plus occasional meals if required.

The chalet is a detached centrally heated, three-bedroomed bungalow in the grounds of Edge View Hostel for the Mentally Handicapped. This is on the outskirts of Kinver village in the beautiful woodland of Edge View National Trust Park.

A charge of £1.08 per person per day is made by the Area Health Authority for the use of the bungalow. If meals are served, they are bought on a pay-as-you-eat basis.

Further details from Barbara Hebbard, warden at Edge View Hostel, Kinver, Staffs.

## More shoe problems

A NEWLY-published survey indicates a bleak outlook for disabled people needing specially-made shoes, if present trends continue. A report by the Disabilities Study Unit on the Orthopaedic Footwear Industry says that most specialised shoemakers are fast approaching retirement age and that few young people are coming forward for training in the necessary skills.

The report places the blame on low wages and the poor image of the industry. It says that small shoe-making firms could be made economically viable only by merging into larger units, which would mean a less personal service for their customers.

The report calls for the Government to take action and concludes: 'We must harness the expertise of the best in the industry as it exists and combine it with Remploy and the hospital workshops into one co-ordinated orthopaedic footwear service.'

'The Orthopaedic Footwear Industry' is published by the Disability Study Unit, in conjunction with the PE Consulting Group, available from Wildhanger, Amberley, Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9NR, price £2.

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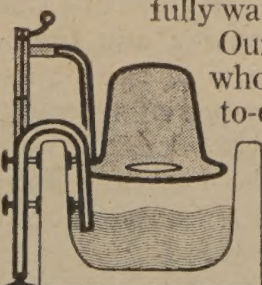
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SN June 3

## Finding air time for your good causes

A 'DIRECTORY of Social Action Programmes' published by the Volunteer Centre, lists nearly 200 'helping' programmes broadcast regularly on radio and television.

This is a rapidly-expanding area of broadcasting which educates and involves the general public in problems of social concern. Most programmes arise from a partnership between social agencies and broadcasters. The agencies act in an advisory capacity to the production team, often providing a back-up service by answering listeners' / viewers' inquiries or identifying ways of helping. In some instances the organisations concerned

make their own television and radio programmes. The transmission dates and times are given for each programme with brief details of the subject matter and name of a contact.

The directory aims to help social agencies (voluntary and statutory) identify broadcasts of interest to them and it is hoped that new programme ideas from one area—perhaps on a local radio station—can be picked up from the directory and used in other areas.

The directory, published twice a year, is part of an annual 'Media Package' sent out by the Volunteer Centre, 29 Lower King's Road, Berkhamsted, Herts HP4 2AB, price £4.

## Conference

A ONE-DAY conference on 'Mental Handicap Services: The Hospital Contribution' will be held at the King's Fund Centre on June 14. Keynote dialogue debates will be given by three pairs of speakers — two parents, two professionals from the health services and two from the social services. The conference will interest all workers in the field.

Further details from Miss Andrea Whittaker, Project Assistant, King's Fund Centre, 126 Albert Street, NW1 7NE.





MRS Jean Cook, a wages clerk at Sparrows Ltd, of Bath, receiving a Spastics Pool first dividend cheque for £3,333 from actress Jennifer Wilson at The Theatre Royal on Wednesday, May 17. Also pictured is Jean's husband, Patrick.



THE drinks were on Michael Reeves, a steward at Vauxhall Motor Company's Dunstable factory recreation club, after he had received a cheque for £5,000 from David Evans, Manager, Maintenance Services, at Vauxhalls in May.

Michael, who is married with two children, has been a steward at the club for 21 years and did not mind a bit celebrating his success on the Spastics Pool with his colleagues.

Picture shows Mr David Evans (left) presenting the cheque to Michael, watched by Spastics Pool Area Supervisor, Arthur Bent.

### Members see their help in action

SPASTICS Pool supporters holidaying at Duporth Holiday Centre in May took the opportunity of visiting The Spastics Society's Churchtown Farm Field Studies Centre in Lanlivery, Cornwall. The invitation came from Bill Hall, the centre's administrator and was relayed to supporters by the Spastics Pool Holiday Club representative, Det Mosser. The holidaymakers were delighted to have the opportunity of looking over such a unique project.

### News about the Spastics Pool

### 21 years of prizes — and aid to good causes

THE pictures on this page show just a few of the lucky winners whose numbers have come up on the Spastics Pool, celebrating its 21st Anniversary this year. Everyone who joins the pool has the chance of winning similar prizes and all members qualify for goodwill gifts at least every three years. There are also opportunities to enter for special competitions, plus holiday and photographic services.

Members have the additional satisfaction of knowing that the bulk of their weekly contributions to the Pool are being used to support charity. Top Ten Promotions, organisers of the pool, have been able to donate £35 million to deserving causes in the past 21 years.

Most of this money has come to The Spastics Society, but Top Ten and its associated trusts have also donated large sums of money to other voluntary organisations.

It costs only 10p a week to belong to the pool. Readers who are not already members are urged to contact the Spastics Pool for details of area representatives. Write to Top Ten Promotions Ltd, Westmorland House, PO Box No 215, 104 Stokes Croft, Bristol BS99 7QX.

### Homework ordering system

SALE of products from the Society's Homework Section is now being channelled through Spastics Cards Ltd. Dispatch of goods and invoices will continue to go out from the Homework Section in Wood Green in North London, while customers will be able to place orders either with the Wood Green office or Spastics Cards Ltd, whichever is most convenient.

Said Mr Arthur Dobson, the Society's Homework Manager, 'In this way we can provide a better service for our customers whose past support has helped to bring dignity and a degree of independence to the spastics we employ. We hope that the new marketing change will enable us to employ more homeworkers for an expanding clientele.'

### Just a cross brings smiles...



PUTTING those crosses in the right place can mean big cash prizes for members of the Spastics Pool in their own free Crossball competition.

Picture, left, shows Teresa Matthews, of Preston Gardens, Enfield, receiving a Crossball competition cheque from Michael Brophy, The Spastics Society's Director of Fund Raising at the Society's centre at Fitzroy Square, London. Also pictured is Spastics Pool Area Supervisor Peter Burlton. For Teresa the win couldn't have come at a better time as she recently became engaged to get married, but she is going to treat herself to driving lessons.

For Mrs Winnie Curtis, of Trewsbury Road, Cirencester, an evening of celebrations with family and friends when she received her cheque for £1,666 from John Pritchard, Marketing Executive, Top Ten Promotions Ltd, at the Thames Head Inn, Cirencester. Winnie is seen with the all important cheque and her collector, Basil Frape, left, and Area Supervisor Arthur Godding.

### Enjoying a 'rumpus'

A £6,000 "RUMPUS" room was opened by TV personality Bruce Hockin at Hortham Hospital Special School, Almondsbury, Bristol, in May. The room provides ample space for play activities for the 33 mentally handicapped youngsters aged between eight and 19 years who attend the day school.

The project was financed by the Bristol based Good Neighbours Trust and the Van Neste Foundation, which were founded in 1960 by the promoters of the Spastics Charity Football Pool, Top Ten Promotions Ltd.

### ...like these



### First lottery draw

THE first draw in The Spastics Society's 'Save a Baby' regional lotteries, which it is hoped will raise £250,000, was held at the Percy Hedley Centre, Forest Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on Wednesday, May 31.

The draw was made by Mr Mike Neville, presenter of the popular BBC 'Look North' programme. Lucky winners will receive £1,000 (first), £500 (second), with five third prizes

of £100, and up to 150 consolation prizes to the value of £1,800.

The money raised by the lotteries will go towards a target of £2 million for further research into the prevention of handicap. Research and medical information programmes can now state quite confidently that if all available knowledge were to be put into practice at least 40 per cent of all cases of spasticity could be prevented.

The winning number for the £1,000 first prize was 01A 14933.

### Fund raisers in the barn

A BARN dance organised by Tending and District Spastics Society raised almost £229, plus £59 from a bottle stall. A further £352 came from a raffle held in the area, the proceeds of which will be divided between the Bedfont Hotel, Jacques Hall and the local spastics group.

### Cash no crime

A PERFORMANCE of 'Lord Arthur Savile's Crime,' given by the Lansbury Players at the Curtain Theatre, London E1, raised £55.50 for the Society's 'Save a Baby' campaign.

**J. R. ADAMS  
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SN June 6

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SN June 1





## Richard's new world of communication

A LINCOLNSHIRE farmer's son, Richard Robinson, 23, is the first person without speech in Britain to be supplied with a newly-designed electronic type-writer system.

The machine, called the Electraid, cost £1,800 which was raised by organisations in Spalding and Donnington. Most of the money came from a massive 'Sale of the Century' held by Spalding Rotary Club and Inner Wheel which brought in over £1,000 in four hours.

Richard is a severely disabled spastic, unable to walk, stand or feed himself and his speech is unintelligible to anyone but his parents.

During the last three years

he has made considerable progress with lessons under the Adult Literacy Scheme and his teachers thought that electronic equipment would help him to communicate with the outside world.

John Flack, designer and manufacturer of the Electraid, was called in to advise. Mr Flack, himself confined to a wheelchair following a boyhood accident, spent three days with Richard, discovering which parts of the body he could use most effectively.

The neck muscles proved to have the most control and a foam-encased switch was fixed by Richard's head. A light moves across a panel, illuminating a series of letters and figures and when it reaches the symbol he requires, Richard strikes his neck against the pad.

## Protest over campaign slogan

AS the relative of a handicapped child, I entirely support the aims of The Spastics Society's 'Save a Baby' campaign, but I feel I must protest about its methods.

When the mother and child logo with the 'Save a Baby' slogan were introduced early this year, several members of my family felt that it could easily be misinterpreted as an anti-abortion message.

Now it seems we were right. Friends who have been out on the streets with collecting boxes in various parts of the country have reported a sharp drop in takings. Members of the public assume that the slogan has something to do with abortion (either for or against) and are refusing to contribute.

It would be a tragedy if the public goodwill built up by the Society over the past 26 years were to be destroyed by this ambiguous slogan.

A. Mills,  
Guildford, Surrey.

● The 'Save a Baby' campaign has nothing to do with abortion either pro — or anti.  
—Editor.

## Liverpool's gardeners

WHENEVER weather permits you will find a number of severely disabled people in wheelchairs sitting alongside raised flower beds. They will be using specially adapted tools and equipment in a large area of the handicapped persons' garden within the

confines of Calderstones Park, Liverpool.

The Liverpool Spastic Fellowship Day Centre tries to do many things for its charges, but this new venture is an added bonus

## LETTERS

To be able to get out of doors — to picnic and to observe the fruits of gardening, is of tremendous value to anyone — so much more to disabled living at home. For these and lots of benefits, we thank most sincerely Mr J. K. Muir, Curator, Botanic Gardens; the Garston Rotary Club, Liverpool, which financed the whole set-up to mark the Jubilee Year, and to the local authority for the land space it afforded.

Margaret Woodall,  
Chairman/organiser,  
Liverpool Spastics Fellowship,  
Balliol O.T. Centre,  
Liverpool 13.



## Director seeks 'immediate action'

TODAY in Trafalgar Square The Spastics Society launched its campaign to Save a Baby from being born spastic. Thousands of people present at our rally resolved to bring to your attention their profound concern about the number of babies born dead or handicapped in this country compared with some other industrialised Western European nations. Moreover, it is not only the international figures which disturb us, but the wide variations within Britain: twice as many babies are born dead in Wolverhampton as in Oxford; seven babies of every thousand born to parents in what is termed social class I are born dead, but for babies in social class V that figure rises to 27.

We are handing to you a copy of the Resolution which was passed in the Square. We believe that our campaign will receive nationwide attention during the coming year and we also believe that a Committee of Supporters of the Campaign are intent on collecting several million signatures in support of its objectives.

Britain, indeed, can be proud of its record in human rights, but surely the most fundamental birthright of every British baby is the right to a life free from handicap. We call upon your government to take immediate action to reduce the number of babies born dead or damaged in Britain.

# Prime Minister replies to 'Save a Baby' call

WHEN the resolution passed at the Society's Trafalgar Square rally to launch the 'Save a Baby' campaign was handed into No 10, it was accompanied by a forthright and hard-hitting letter from the Society's Director, James Loring, to the Prime Minister, James Callaghan. The resolution contained a seven-point plan to aid prevention of handicap, and Mr Loring's letter was a factual argument stressing the urgency of the situation. Now the Prime Minister has replied putting the Government's case and his views of future policy.

## 'Prevention of handicap is one of the highest priorities'

THE Prime Minister has asked me to reply to your letter of April 23 about The Spastics Society's 'Save a Baby' campaign and the copy of the Resolution passed at the Public Meeting held on that day. Mr Callaghan wishes me to say that he welcomes the campaign and will give it his support.

You will recently have received a letter from Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, and will know from him that prevention, and particularly the prevention of handicap, is one of the highest priorities in the DHSS and that the government like to see it take a very high place on the national agenda. We must not, however, fail to recognise that the National Health Service is already doing a great deal in this field. It seems that the Resolution came dangerously near overlooking this. For example, infant death rates have changed in France, Sweden and our

own country over the last 10 years.

The rates per thousand live births are as follows:

	1966	1976
Sweden .....	12.6	8.3
France .....	21.7	14.6
England and Wales ...	19.0	14.2

(The French figure has been corrected to take account of "false still births".) We still have a long way to go, but we have been making steady progress. There is, I am sure, a link between mortality and handicap and what we all want is faster progress in reducing both.

I would comment as follows on the specific proposals made in the resolution. As regards a national plan the Government has been hard at work for the last four years building up a national planning system for the National Health Service, in which prevention is a main priority. I am sure that plans for handicap must be integrated with the plans for the National Health Service as a whole.

Cuts in maternity services follow necessarily from a sharp fall in the number of

births in recent years. What is being done is the closure of isolated maternity units — the result will be to concentrate births in better equipped hospitals, something that will actually improve the service to mothers and children. There is a need to disseminate knowledge on prevention. The DHSS are already doing a great deal in this way. They produced 'Prevention and Health — Everybody's Business' in 1976 and followed it up last year with 'Reducing the Risk' which deals with ways of reducing perinatal mortality and morbidity. Only last month the DHSS arranged jointly with the CPAG a conference on 'Reaching the Consumer in the Antenatal and Child Health Services' which was well attended by professional people and representatives of the Community Health Councils and of voluntary organisations, this demonstrated how widespread is the interest in this subject, and threw up some new and valuable ideas.

As regards research a DHSS working party on priorities in research on infant and perinatal mortality and morbidity, chaired by Professor J. N. Morris, reported last year. Their recommendations are now being carried into the research programme and another group under Professor Morris is now looking at further research priorities in the light of the Court report.

The Government does not need convincing that care for the severely handicapped is expensive, or that prevention makes economic sense. But comparisons with France, which some have made, do not seem to help very much. The distinctive features of the system, such as the link between benefits and clinic attendance, and personal child health records, have been in force for many years. In their new programme, since 1970, they have been following much the same lines as we have — developing fetal monitoring, improving antenatal care, concentrating births in well equipped hospitals and closing smaller maternity units.

## The resolution...

THIS is the seven-point resolution passed at the Trafalgar Square Rally:

We are deeply concerned that the rates of perinatal death and handicap in the UK are excessively high compared with those of some other industrialised countries of Western Europe and, furthermore, that these rates differ widely according to region and income.

Moreover, we believe that immediate action should be taken to reduce the number of babies born dead or handicapped and we hereby resolve to call upon the Government to:

● Establish a national plan for the prevention of

spasticity and related handicaps;

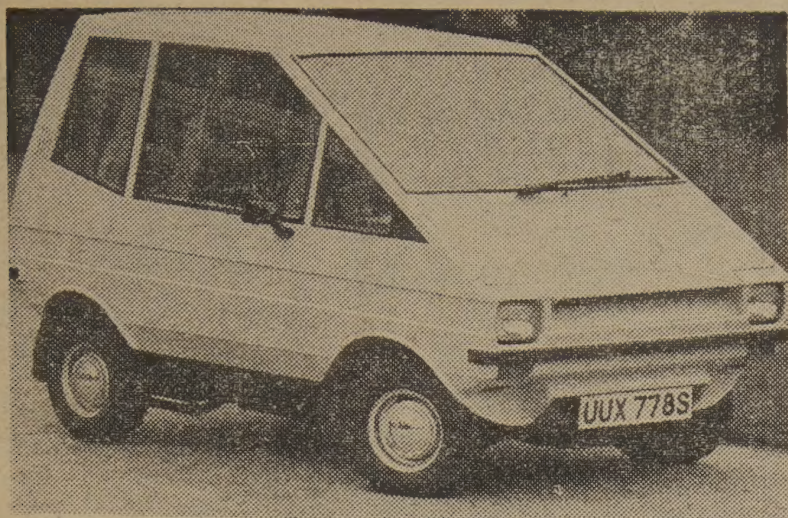
- Abandon the proposed cuts in maternity services; improve services for pregnant women and unborn babies;
- Close inefficient maternity units;
- Create first-class maternity, special and intensive care facilities for the newborn in every health district;
- Institute a national campaign of health education for women;
- Finance further research into causes of handicap; and
- Undertake studies to show which preventive measures pay off best.

## Book Club Associates

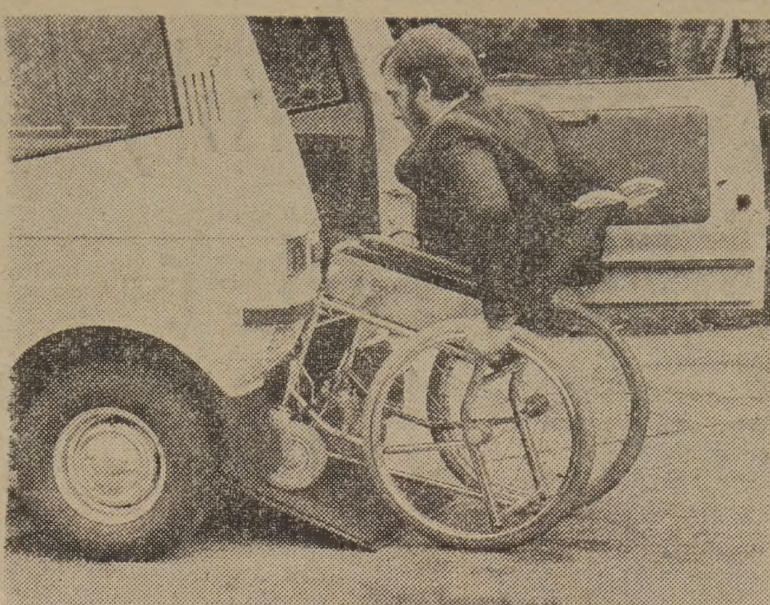
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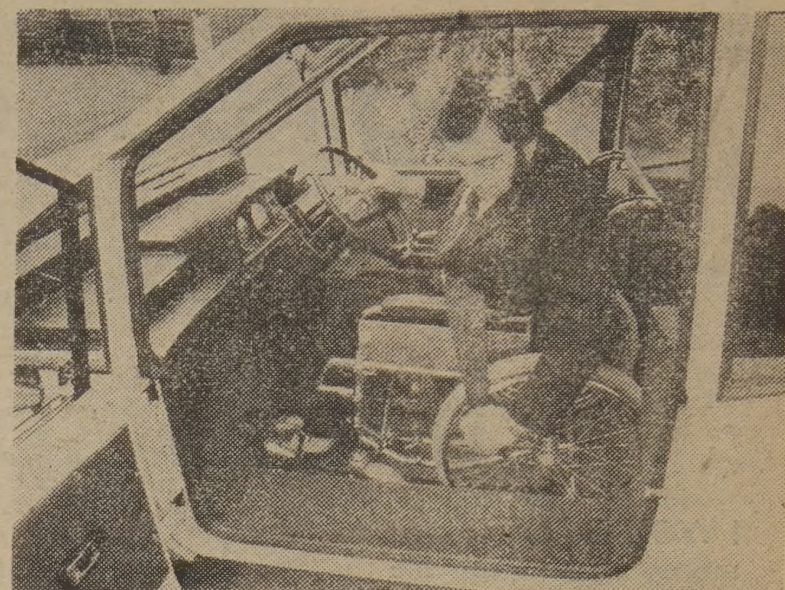




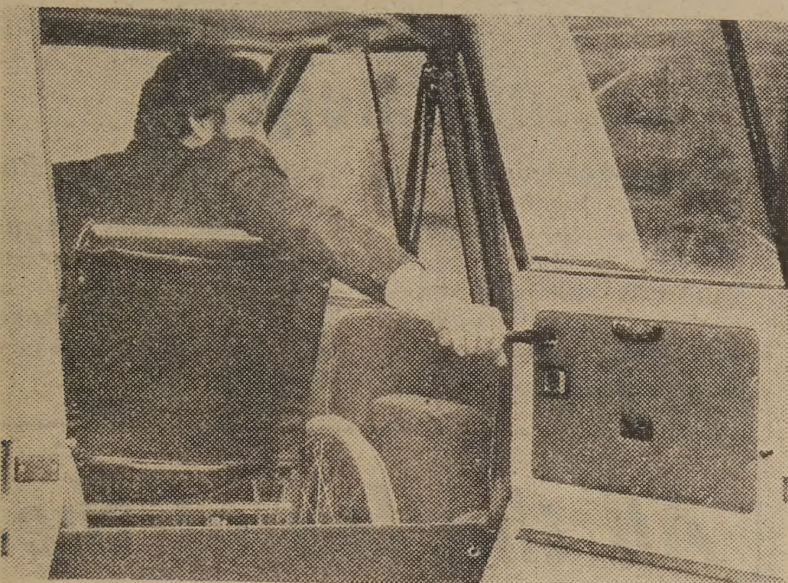
THE compact shape of GKN Sankey's prototype car for the disabled, enables it to be end-parked to the pavement for easy wheelchair access.



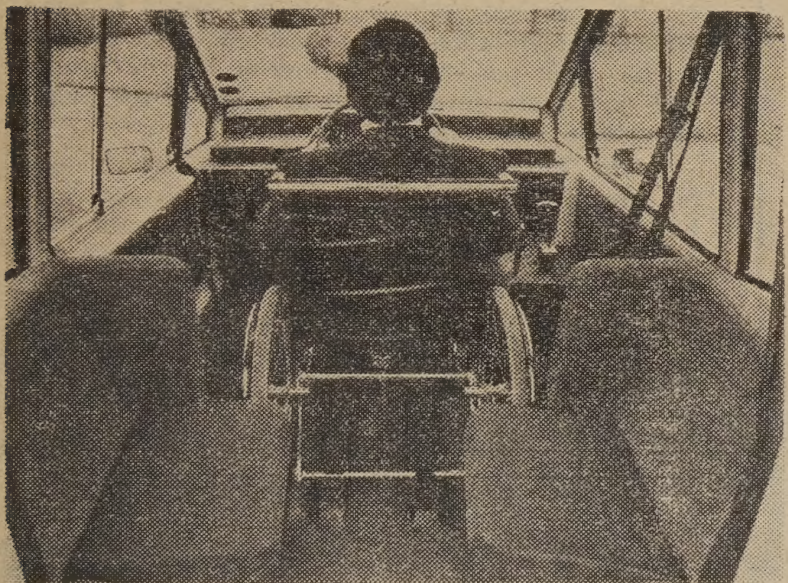
The driver enters the car in his wheelchair through the rear door. The ramp folds up inside the vehicle when the door is closed.



The car's side door (to provide additional access in case of accidents) opens to show the chairbound driver using a conventional safety belt.



Once the wheelchair is locked into the correct position for driving, the driver can reach back and close the door by means of a special handle. Below this lever is seen a finger pull which opens the door.



The two passenger seats are seen folded down ready for use. A small amount of luggage can be carried alongside the driver.

## Will the vandals accept the challenge?

VANDALS responsible for £200 worth of broken windows at the Norwich spastics work centre have been issued with a challenge. Mr Harry Knight, Executive Officer of Norfolk and Norwich Spastic Association, which runs the centre, has told the vandals:

'Come and see things from our side.'

He and work centre manager Mr Arthur Scales want these hooligans to see the effect of their senseless behaviour on the handicapped workers.

So far there have been four cases of vandalism, when two £25 windows were smashed each time. People living nearby heard the sound of breaking

glass and a car moving off at speed in the early hours.

No sooner has the damage been repaired than the same two windows have been smashed again — and again.

Mr Scales suggested: 'Maybe whoever is responsible has a grudge against one of us. If so, let us find out and discuss it.'

He added: 'We have to do an awful lot of work to earn £200 in a place like this. It costs over £27,000 a year to run and the money has to be raised entirely by voluntary contributions.'

Some of the workers at the centre have been so distressed by the damage that it has seriously affected their productivity.

Mr Knight said: 'I am quite serious about this challenge. Once the vandals have seen what happens on the other side of the windows, I am convinced they will not throw any more bricks through them. They might even put their hands in their pockets and give us a donation.'

## Design Council praise for 'Drive in your chair' car

A DESIGN Council commendation has been given to a prototype car for the disabled, which allows the driver to remain in his wheelchair.

The Design Council's annual British Motor Industry Awards this year included for the first time a special category for prototypes — designs not yet in full commercial production — and this was won by GKN Sankey Ltd, Telford, Salop. The four-wheel car can be driven by a disabled person seated in a wheel chair which can be locked securely to the vehicle floor. Anyone capable of controlling a conventional wheel chair can get in and out of the car unaided.

The car has a short wheelbase, enabling it to be end-parked to the pavement for safe exit through the rear door without impeding the flow of traffic. There are two tip-up passenger seats.

The car is expected to be available to the public in about a year and will probably cost about £3,000.

The original idea for such a compact vehicle came from William Towns, a car designer with specific interests in short wheelbase 'City' cars. The proposition was accepted on the understanding that the final car would possess the engineering integrity and appearance of a conventional modern car but with such provisions for the disabled as automatic transmission and hand controls.

Because the price of the vehicle had to be competitive, the decision was taken to use tried and tested, volume pro-

duced components from an existing range of motor cars. The BL Cars Mini engine and automatic transmission, the engine sub-frame, wheels and suspension satisfied all the engineering and financial requirements of the project and produced the spin-off advantage that the car can be serviced and maintained by established BL Cars agents.

The GKN Sankey car for the disabled is built on these volume produced components but its very distinctive glass fibre body owes much of its pleasing and very practical shape to the Towns City car. The outward opening rear door is of adequate proportions to allow a conventional

wheel chair access. Behind the door a ramp is fitted and this can be lowered by the occupant of the wheelchair who can then propel the chair up the ramp and between the folded-up rear seats. A hand lever to the right of the central driving position enables the driver to retract the ramp.

A roll bar is incorporated in the body shell for additional safety and a second door is fitted on the left-hand side of the car. This door provides additional access in case of accidents but it is anticipated it will find favour with arthritic people who are not confined to a wheelchair when right- or left-hand drive models of the car become available.

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## Rally's foreign aid

TOURISTS were obviously among the crowds in Trafalgar Square when the 'Save a Baby' campaign was launched. The speeches from the platform were asking for £2 million towards research in preventing handicap as the 62 fund-raisers with their collecting boxes moved about the Square.

At the end of the day there was about £270 in English money and 130 coins in varying currencies. One box not only had coins but a £20 note—another just 19p. There were 88 Irish pence, two kroners, two pesos, 10 lira, 25 pesetas, one dime, one quarter, one franc, a five-dollar note and a 10 rial note. The Society's Accounts department will be able to exchange the notes at the bank but a foreign coin dealer will be asked to buy up the coins.



# Imagine if every family in a town like Exeter had a spastic child

I WOULD like to add more words to the many being written about our Society's Save-a-Baby campaign in an attempt to illustrate its importance in another way.

There are many small towns up and down England and Wales, and I would like to mention three of them in particular. They are Penarth, near Cardiff, Newbury in Berkshire, and Leyland near Preston in Lancashire. Why do I name them, and what have they got in common with one another? I'll tell you in a moment.

Using the latest published figures on population trends, and applying available incidence rates for cerebral palsy, it is possible to estimate roughly how many babies are likely to be born with cp between now and 2014 AD, if things continue as at present. A long time away? Not really; many of us can remember something of 1942, for example. Furthermore, it has been

by George Scrimshaw

estimated that if all present knowledge were to be successfully applied, 40 per cent of these potential births could take place without the baby being handicapped by brain damage.

The resulting calculation gives us a potential saving of about 23,600 handicapped babies, between now and 2014; and remember this does not include many types of handicap.

And this is why I mentioned the three towns above; each of them has a population of about this size. If, as in a science fiction film, everyone woke up one morning to find the entire population of one of these towns, every man, woman and child, afflicted by some strange disease, or dead, then there would be a great uproar. All necessary services would be mobilised irrespective of the cost involved, and every effort made to cope with the situation. Nothing

would be too much trouble, and nothing would be left undone simply because it was administratively or organisationally difficult, or because there were problems in appropriating funds. This is marvellous, and as it should be.

Yet because an equivalent amount of tragedy is spread out—spread over the country as a whole, and spread over 36 years—it doesn't have the impact, and so it is necessary to fight to get things done. Fight to get an awareness of this situation implanted in everybody's mind; fight to get action taken despite the appreciable problems involved in the taking. This of course is the purpose of our 'Save a Baby' campaign.

There are two additional thoughts on this subject. First, it matters whether we 'save our 40 per cent' now or later. Assuming a programme is put into practice more or less straight away, it would take a finite time to achieve the full annual 40 per cent saving. The difference between achieving it

in 1980, or not until 1990, can be estimated at approximately 3,900 extra handicap-free babies, a significant bonus for haste.

Second, the numbers quoted above refer to the babies themselves. But to some extent the whole family of such a child is handicapped in very real sense because of the special problems in which they are automatically involved. If we take the average family as being four people, mother, father and two children, then the number of people involved in our 40 per cent of spastic babies is not just 23,600 but 94,400. Although such numbers are estimates and can only be used as a guide, nevertheless they serve to give an idea of the size of the problem. To pursue the earlier illustration, the same numerical end would be achieved dramatically if every family in a town the size of Preston in Lancashire or Exeter in Devon had a handicapped child.

And this is the point I wanted to make. To ignore the economics of the situation would be both expensive and unwise. To ignore the human aspect of it would be unforgivable.

● Dr Scrimshaw is a member of The Spastics Society's Executive Council.



## Dancing cheque

SARAH Fielden, left, the Society's local appeals officer for the Midlands, receives a £150 cheque from Cllr Mrs Joan Shaw, of the ladies' section, Whitmoreans Conservative Association. Centre is Mrs

Eileen Ward, committee member of the Conservative Club. The cheque represented the proceeds of a dance organised by Mrs Evelyn Ward, Boxes and Dolls field manager, West Midlands.

## All the fun of the fair with HQ staff

SPASTICS Society staff will make their own contribution to 'Save a Baby' campaign funds on June 15, by organising a grand fair in Central London. Dancing, refreshment bars and sideshows will be set up in the pedestrian precinct of Fitzroy Square, and the square gardens will be open to the public for strolling or resting.

The Thursday evening date has been chosen to coincide with late-night shopping in the West End, and the fair will last from 6 pm until midnight. Music will be provided by Punk Rock and Reggae bands and the Capital Radio Fun Bus will also be present, with attendant DJ. There will be two licensed bars and food will also be on sale in addition to stalls selling jumble, books and other items.



PRINCE Philip attended a reception in May given by the Aidis Trust which was formed to provide quick sponsorship for equipment for the disabled until the necessary funds can be raised elsewhere. Aidis provides, in effect, an interest-free bridging loan so that urgently-needed equipment

can be ordered with the minimum of delay.

Pictured with the Prince are (left) Roger Jefcoate, consultant assessor and lecturer, electronic equipment for the disabled and (seated) John Flack, designer of the Electraid communications device, and Valda Collyer, of The Spastics Society's Oakwood Centre.

## June cookery

BRAISED PORKIES (serves 4)

1lb pork, minced; 1 small onion, finely chopped; 2 slices bread, crusts removed; 4 tablespoons water; large pinch mixed herbs; salt and pepper; seasoned flour; 2oz dripping; 1lb carrots, sliced; ½ pint stock.

Crumble bread and soak in the water. Mix thoroughly with the pork, onion, herbs and seasoning. Shape into 12 patties. Coat in seasoned flour. Fry in dripping until browned. Fry carrots until browned. Place in a large fireproof dish, lay patties on top. Pour on stock. Cover and cook at 350 F, Mark 4, for one hour. Serve with creamed potatoes and a green vegetable.

CHEESE CRISPY BAKE (serves 4)

½ pt white sauce  
1lb onions, sliced  
8 thin slices of bread cut into ½ in dice  
Dripping  
1 egg, beaten  
2oz home-produced butter  
Salt and pepper  
2oz home-produced cheese, grated

Fry the onions in the butter. Add to the sauce with seasoning. Fry cubed bread in dripping until crisp and golden. Place half the bread in a greased fireproof dish. Stir the beaten egg into the sauce. Pour over the bread. Place remaining bread on top. Sprinkle cheese over. Bake at 400°F, Mark 6, for 10-15 minutes until golden.

## Your offers and wants

THERE are vacancies for June and mid-September at the self-catering bungalow owned by West Sussex Spastics Group. The bungalow is at Bracklesham Bay, within easy reach of shops, the beach and bus stop.

It is self-contained, sleeps five and has a well-equipped kitchen and bathroom. There is ramped access to the garden. It has television and night storage heaters. For further details, please contact Mrs Jellatt, 66 Oliver Whitby Road, Chichester, West Sussex. Tel Chichester 89670.

WANTED.—Long trousers to fit boy aged five-six years, inside leg 15in-17in approximately, and socks for child of same age. Also wanted, garden swing (preferably with back support).—Mrs Pam Knight, 37 Wellsprings Road, Taunton, Somerset TA2 7LY.

FOR sale. — Secondhand Rigley electrically-operated wheelchair. Left-hand control. Very powerful. Road-worthy, with lights and brakes. £100 ono.—Clive Bailey, Drummonds, Ferriing, Colchester, Essex.

WANTED: Garden climbing frame for 11 year old handicapped girl. Tel: Dyserth 570021.

MISS Anita Godman from the Society's Woodford Hostel would like a pen-friend (male or female), aged mid-thirties. Her interests are all types of music and reading romances.

Please write to Miss Anita M. Godman, Woodford Hostel, 6 Snakes Lane, Woodford Green, Essex IG8 0BS.

WANTED: Volume two of the 'Roosevelt Letters.' Volumes one and three were given to the Rhyl Spastics Shop, and have already been sold, but the customer would like to obtain the middle volume.

Ms Pennington, the manageress at Rhyl, is appealing to her colleagues in other shops, in case they have this volume in stock. Please contact her at 3 Lyric Buildings, Market Street, Rhyl, Clwyd.

CARAVAN at Sandford Park, Holton Heath, available from September 9 at a reduced rate of £14. The caravan is a 7-berth Senator, sited about five miles from Wareham and seven miles from Poole. Within easy reach of Swanage and Lulworth Cove. It has electric light, television, fitted shower and main drainage.

Inquiries to: Mrs W. Stephenson, 2 Ashling Close, Bournemouth. Telephone Bournemouth 514645.

FOR SALE, Mercedes ambulance / coach, diesel run, L registered, 14 seats plus space for four wheelchairs, electric tail lift, very low mileage for this type of vehicle. £2,000 ono. — Apply Blackpool and Fylde Spastic Group, 216 Whitegate Drive, Blackpool. Telephone Blackpool 61444.

● INDIVIDUAL spastic people, their relatives, or local voluntary group members may advertise their Offers and Wants in this column without charge. Write to the Editor at the address on Page 12.

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## Best-ever dancing wheels festival

THE biggest audience ever crowded into the Hammersmith Palais to watch the annual English dance festival, and the encouragement of family and friends inspired the dancers to the highest standard of performance yet, according to Arthur Edwards.

Mr Edwards, the Society's consultant on physical education had nothing but praise for the event. 'The standard gets higher every year and not only was the audience the biggest we've ever had, we had a record entry of 14 teams. It was a very good day, and the highlight was the social dancing after the competitions were over when everyone took to the floor. The staff at Hammersmith Palais had gone out of their way to make the day a success.'

The results:—

Class A.—Formation: The Musical Chairs of Oxford. Children's.—Group A: Errisians of Coney Hill School, Hayes, Kent. Group B: Palace School, Ely. Adult.—Group A: Jane's People, Falmouth, Cornwall. Group B: Spinning Wheels from Paignton, Devon. Novelty Dance: Jubilee Centre from Bolton, Lancs. Couple Dance. — Class A: Mrs Margaret Gibbs and Miss Jasmyrn Turton of the Spinning Wheels. Class B: Bill Sampson and Marion Saunders of The Spinning Wheels.



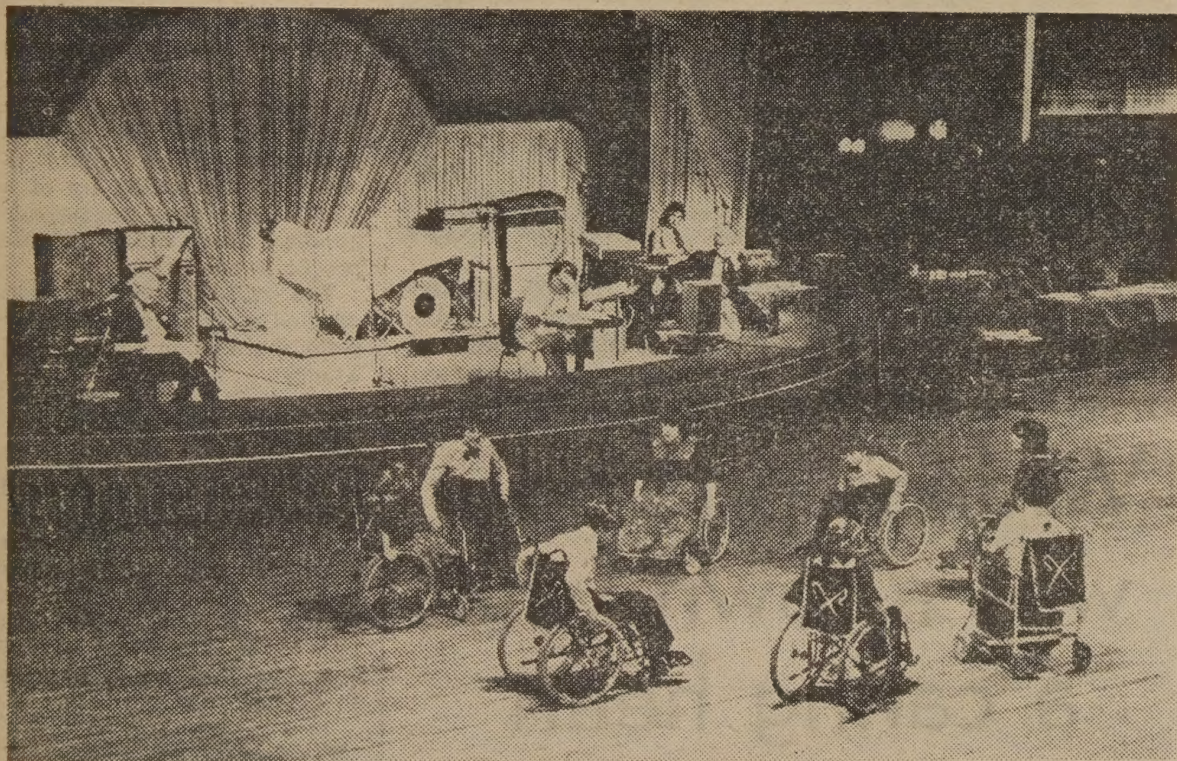
ABOVE: Jane's People from Falmouth, Cornwall, won the Adult's section A with their polished performance on the floor of the Hammersmith Palais, watched by an admiring audience.

RIGHT: These are the Jubilee Wheelers who carried off the shield for the Novelty dance to Bolton, Lancs. 'The standard of novelty dance and costumes was extremely high,' commented Mr Edwards, and the judges agreed. It was the first time that the team, who included a soldier paralysed by a sniper's bullet in Ulster, had taken part in the Festival.

Picture by Bolton Evening News.



BELOW: The judges, Eddie Ghys, Didi Monzani and Tony Frank watch the Palace School, Ely, as they go through their paces. And at the end of the day the Palace team collected a winning shield.



## Cash crisis hits toy libraries

THE Toy Libraries Association has sent out a desperate appeal for help. Unless the Association can find £10,000 it is doomed to go out of existence.

Its plight has been brought about by its massive success. In just six years the TLA has been responsible for founding 600 toy libraries with each year bringing a doubling of the number of new libraries asking for help.

'Unfortunately we've been expanding while the economy has been doing the reverse,' explained TLA director, Lesley Moreland, 'and we are no

longer new enough to attract grants from Trusts because we have lost our novelty value. At the same time we have not been around long enough to be established in people's minds to become beneficiaries in their wills.'

'The Spastics Society has been wonderful in helping us and we are very grateful for its support.'

The TLA has drawn up a three-pronged plan of campaign IF it can stay in existence: To recruit a full time fund raiser to ensure long term success, to cut even further back on administration costs and, in the short term, to ask for donations—£10 from toy libraries and £5 from individuals.

'One of the troubles is that no one likes giving money for boring things like postage and we just haven't made ourselves self-financing. The Department of Health and Social Security has come to our aid and given us a breathing space until October—we were going to go bankrupt at the end of June—but the situation is still very, very desperate,' said Lesley.

Lesley has sent out a letter describing the Association's plight in which she says: 'I am very sorry to have to ask at all, but if we have helped you in the past I would ask you to remember all the handicapped and deprived children who remain to be helped and whose parents and guardians are coming to us in ever increasing numbers. Please help us to help them.'

## TV boost for 'Save a Baby'

Continued from page 1

quarters. But it also brought its headaches to the department's head, Pat Taylor, and her team.

It had been arranged that every viewer who responded to the appeal on the programme would receive an information kit containing leaflets on the campaign, facts about the Society, a list of senior regional officers, a campaign badge, and those important petition forms. Anticipating a big response to the programme, the department had 3,000 kits prepared, but within a few hours supplies were exhausted. Then the rush was on to produce thousands more for the eager volunteers.

'We were determined that there would be no delay on our part,' said Pat, 'and that the volunteers would have their information kits as quickly as possible. It was a bit of a nightmare at first, but we managed to keep up to date.'

'The hard work has been very well worthwhile. The TV appeal for the campaign not only attracted thousands of new supporters to the Society's cause, but has given a terrific boost to the petition.'

### Collectors at the door

A 'DOOR knock' collection held by the West Sussex Spastics Group has raised more than £2,000. The money will go towards the expenses of a welfare officer in visiting local spastics and providing transport for them and their families where needed.

### In the swim at Daresbury Hall

A CHEQUE for £350 has been presented to the Society's Daresbury Hall adult residential centre by Greenall Whitley, a local brewery. The money came from a sportsmen's evening organised by staff, and will be used to roof in an outdoor swimming pool.

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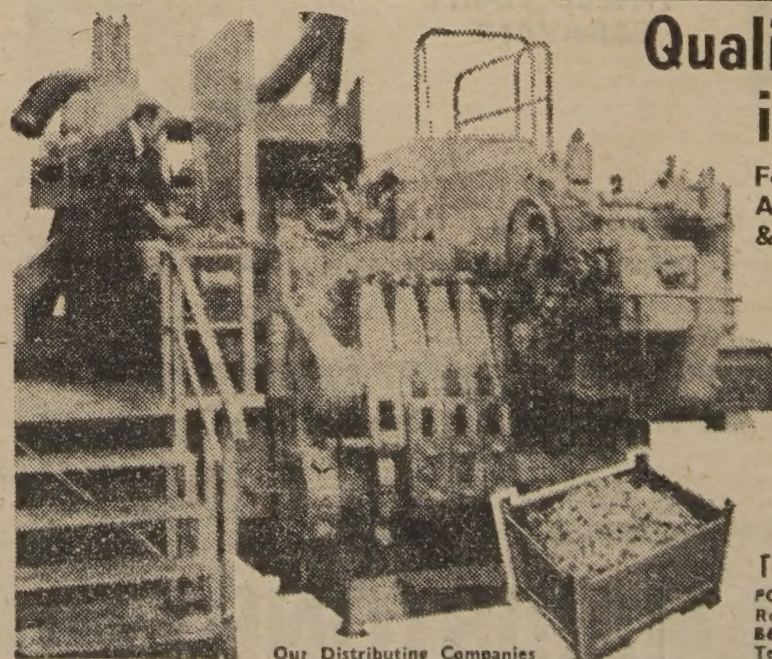
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SN June4



## Bliss for adults too?

MORE and more handicapped children who are unable to talk are learning to communicate using Blissymbolics—the symbol system invented by Charles Bliss.

Now Mike Loseby, the Society's work centre liaison officer, has plans for a dramatic extension of the system's use. He said: 'No one—up to now—has taught Blissymbolics to adults and that is just what we plan to do.'

'We would like to have the system going in the work centres and residential centres throughout the Society. To this end we've already held a one-day lecture session given by Jill Hammond, of Heathfield School, Hampshire, one of the pioneers of Blissymbolics in this country.'

'In Canada, where Blissymbolics were first used effectively, I believe a handful of adults have learnt the system but these are isolated cases. No one anywhere in the world has done it on the scale we are proposing. I had about 30 residential staff and work centre people on the course and now I'm waiting to see the response from further afield.'

'We need to organise a training programme. Then adults who cannot talk and have no access to lightwriters and can't utilise the Paget-Gorman system will at last be able to communicate and the benefit will be immeasurable. It will be a real breakthrough.'

## He's with Ally's army



## Argentina for Ian — and cash win for spastics

THE winner of the World Cup Lottery in aid of the Scottish Council for Spastics was formally presented with his £600 cheque for expenses which goes with his flight, accommodation and match tickets, before leaving for Argentina.

He is 59 year-old Mr Ian Johnston, a Scottish Gas official of Pilgrig Street, Edinburgh, who received his prize from Commander Archie Cameron, Director of the Scottish

Council for Spastics.

More than 190,000 lottery tickets were sold throughout Scotland, the net proceeds for the benefit of spastics amounting to almost £14,500. The Scottish Council wish to express their deep appreciation to all who supported the venture.

Winner of the second prize of £1,000 was Dorothy McKay, of Brooke Crescent, Aberdeen.

MR Johnston is all smiles as he receives his prize from Commander Cameron. Left is Bill Houston, Secretary of the Council, and Hilary Roberts, the Council's Lothians, Fife and Central Scotland regional officer.

## News briefs

HARRY Secombe, well known as a hard-working member of the Stars Organisation for Spastics, brought a personal touch to his interest in the cause when he was appearing in a show at St Austell.

A party from the Cornish Spastics Society went to see the show and Colin Rostron, one of the group, who is chairbound and unable to converse, sent his programme backstage for Mr Secombe to autograph. The star brought the signed programme back to Colin in person and stayed to crack jokes with him.

## Fitzroy Square appreciated

THE Society's Family Services and Assessment Centre has received a visit from a group of members of the London Appreciation Society. Miss Margaret Morgan, Controller of Personal Social Services, talked to them about current work at the centre and The Spastics Society in general.

She also spoke about the history of 16 Fitzroy Square, built with the adjoining houses in the 1820s. It was converted into a Home Hospital in 1880, 'Replete with every possible comfort and provision for the privacy and proper treatment of well-to-do-

patients, to which admission should be by payment alone.' The quotation comes from a weekly journal called 'The Hospital,' published in January, 1903.

## Group effort

AT the annual general meeting of the South Norfolk Spastics Group it was reported that £2,500 had been sent to the Norfolk and Norwich Spastics Association during the year.

## At the door

A HOUSE-to-house collection on the Isle of Thanet has raised £673 for the Society's Save a Baby campaign.

## Lottery aid

WESTON-SUPER-MARE and District Society for the Spastic and Mentally Handicapped has received £1,700 from the proceeds of Woodspring District Council lotteries, Avon. The money will go towards a new assessment centre for handicapped children, in Weston.

## Generous town

AN appeal directed only at residents of Fenton, Staffordshire, and those who work in the town has resulted in a collection of £1,000 for the North Staffordshire Spastics Association. The appeal is aimed at the setting up of a £2,500 trust fund to provide holidays for needy spastic people in the area.

The £1,000 mark was reached with a £100 donation from the Fenton Chamber of Trade.

## Balls and bees

SIXTH-formers from Gosford Hill School, Kidlington, Oxon, held a 24-hour sponsored basketball game which raised £383.70 for The Spastics Society. Earlier, third year girls at the school took part in a spelling bee which brought in £161.42.

## Trust's gift

THE work centre at Oughtibridge run by Sheffield and Rotherham Spastics Society has received £1,000 towards administration costs from the Julian Melchett Trust. This is a permanent memorial to Lord Melchett, the first British Steel Corporation Chairman, who died in 1973.

The £1,000 is the first of three annual donations to be made from the trust to the work centre.

## Shower of cash

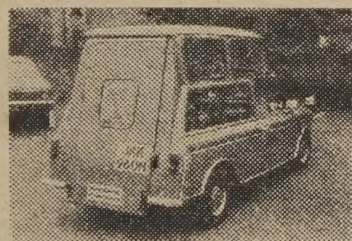
THE North Hants and West Surrey Spastics Group has raised about £1,000 towards the cost of buying and installing special showers for mentally and physically handicapped patients at Northfield Hospital, Aldershot.

Most of the money was raised at the spastic shop in Camberley High Street.

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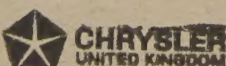
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SN June12



HAROLD Scragg, left, president of the Widnes Spastics Fellowship, hands a presentation key and a commemorative album to Ron Carrington, former editor of the 'Widnes Weekly News,' in gratitude for the newspaper's help in raising £13,000 to save the centre.

## Widnes proved it was a town with a caring heart

JUST six months ago the prospects looked hopeless for the Widnes Spastic Fellowship's cherished dream of a centre for the town's handicapped. The group had scraped together the cash to buy an old building and plunged themselves into debt to convert it. All that was needed was another £7,000 when they ran into the brick-wall of local authority budgeting.

While nearly £1m had been set aside for a new golf course, computer, youth club and swimming pool facilities nothing was left in the kitty for the town's disabled.

Then the 'Widnes Weekly News,' the local paper, stepped in and found the caring heart of the people. In a massive response of enthusiastic generosity everyone chipped in with something—a local eccentric gave £1,000 straight away and an envelope marked 'The Widow's mite' contained £5.

The local Scouts gave over £250 and the Ladies Circle raised over £500 for play equipment with a fashion show. Small children slogged round the perimeter of the park, pubs held collections and everyone was involved.

Mr Harold Scragg, president of the Fellowship, said at the official opening by the 'Weekly News' former editor, Ron Carrington: 'To me this is a very proud moment—it's the highlight of my life seeing this centre come to fruition.'

The people of Widnes had proved that they would rather have a centre for their handicapped than a new golf club for themselves by wiping out the seemingly impossible sum of a £13,000 debt.





## Push-power Alan's marathon effort

MANAGER of Chester Spastics Shop, Alan Birks, is pictured training for a marathon fund-raising trip from Edinburgh to Chester. Although not disabled himself, Mr Birks plans to make the journey in a non-powered wheelchair. This will serve a dual purpose of highlighting the problems of the handicapped and raising money from sponsors.

Mr Birks, who has two spina bifida children,

hopes to raise £10,000. If he succeeds, part of the money will be used to buy a mini-bus for the local branch of the Handicapped Families Association, the rest will go towards an extension of the Blaenau Adventure Playground.

Mr Birks plans to make his 260-mile journey in August, covering 20-25 miles a day to complete the trip in a fortnight.

(Picture by Chester Chronicle)

# HOPES OF £50,000 WIN FROM DAY AT THE RACES

A CHARITY race meeting to raise funds for The Spastics Society will be held at Ascot, by permission of the Queen, on Friday, September 29. It is anticipated that the meeting will raise over £50,000 as the largest single

event in the 'Save a Baby from being born spastic' campaign.

Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk, is president of the race meeting, and the prize money of £27,400 has been contributed by six sponsors.

Many valuable and interesting objects will be auctioned at a dinner to be held in the ballroom at the Hyde Park

Hotel on Thursday September 28, as part of the Ascot Appeal. Tickets will be by invitation only. A committee headed by Mrs Vivien Wallis and consisting of the Hon Mrs Hugh Lawson, Lady Macready, Mrs Nicholas Royds and Mrs J. J. Warr are looking after all the arrangements. Music will be provided by the Confrey Phillips Band.

To assist the Ascot Appeal the Daily Express is holding a competition in July to

choose the six best winners of the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes. De Beers have generously agreed to provide a Mini as the first prize which will be presented to the winner of the competition by Sir Philip Oppenheimer on Diamond Day, Ascot, on July 22.

Boxholders at Ascot have been requested to donate their boxes to The Spastics Society for the day, and these will be resold at £100 each.

## Up, up and away on wave of goodwill

WHEN Richard Truscott, 22, turned up for work the other morning at the Eric Robinson Work Centre, Trengweth, Plymouth, he had his feet firmly on the ground. Along with his fellow workers he was soon hard at it packing and assembling the work contracted in. But a day earlier Richard had been above all that — quite literally. For as long as he could remember Richard, who was at Trengweth School before he went to the Work Centre, had nursed the ambition to fly in a helicopter.

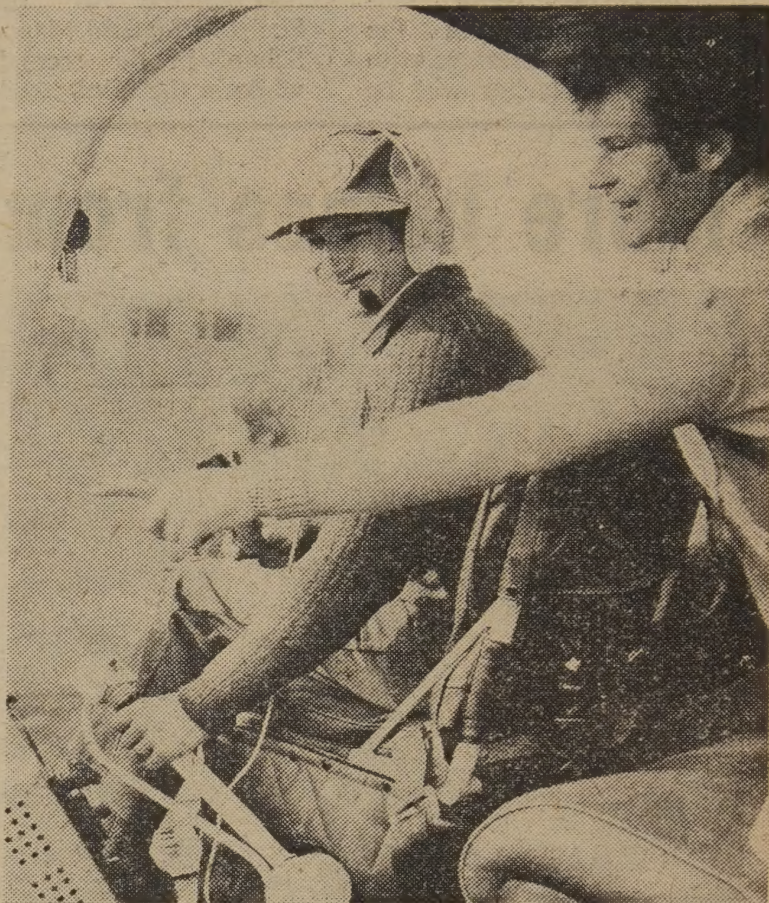
When other chalet owners at the Whitsands site where his parents have their holiday home heard of this, they decided to do something about it. First they thought of

launching an appeal fund and one of them, John Bond, approached helicopter owner Roy Flood of Castle Motors, Widgeons, near Liskeard, and asked how much it would cost to hire his machine.

But Roy would not hear of hiring out his helicopter. Instead he insisted on giving Richard a free flight.

Richard and his parents left their home in Dryburgh Crescent, Ham, Plymouth, at the weekend with Richard fully expecting to spend a quiet day at the chalet. To Richard's amazement, however, he was soon up, up and away with Roy at the complex controls of his craft.

He confessed afterwards that at first he had been petrified, but soon settled down to enjoy the experience. Now he is looking forward to going up again.



RICHARD Truscott (left) prepares for take-off, while Roy Flood explains the controls.

Picture by Western Morning News.

## Information service will aid disabled

ON Thursday, June 1, Cardiff's first centre providing information for all disabled people, was opened at the Society's Regional Office, 45 Park Place, Cardiff.

Two information officers, specially trained for the job, will be available to help visitors to the centre or telephone callers. The telephone number is Cardiff 398058.

I should like to emphasise that this is a service available for all disabled people and we trust that the disabled of Cardiff and South Wales will make use of it. Parking facilities have been provided, there are ramps, and toilet facilities.



**WINDOW ON WALES**

by Emlyn Davies

## Cathedral service launches campaign

THE 'Save a Baby from being born spastic' campaign was launched in Wales with an interdenominational service at Llandaff Cathedral, Cardiff.

Over 300 people attended, among them over 120 disabled, and I am indebted to Craig-y-Parc School, Sully Work Centre, 'Brynawel', Mena House and Ysgol Erw'r Delyn for the trouble they took to

ensure that pupils and residents could get to the service, which was extremely moving. Lord Parry, who is President of the Campaign in Wales, spoke most eloquently to the congregation.

A touching moment came when Rory Turner, a pupil at the Society's Craig-y-Parc School, carried the large red leather-bound book in which eminent signatures are to be collected for the petition, to the altar.

## Medical seminar

A SEMINAR on the primary prevention of handicap in children was organised by The Spastics Society at the Welsh National School of Medicine, Cardiff, and the researchers and doctors present adjudged it an outstanding success.

The seminar was chaired by Lord Parry, the Secretary of State for Wales, Mr John Morris, QC, MP, gave an address, and was welcomed to the School of Medicine by Professor B. E. D. Cooke.

Mr Morris supported the campaign to the hilt and said: 'I believe absolutely in the value of well-conceived and well-directed research, and I make resources for it available as freely as I can, but your efforts will secure much extra endeavour which will surely bring its rewards.'

He went on: 'Many of you, having undertaken the somewhat daunting but highly rewarding exercise of reading the long Court Committee Report on the Child Health Services, "Fit for the Future," will remember that a full chapter and some 11 recommendations were devoted to the unborn and newborn child. Not the least important of these is that further research is needed into the causes of handicapping conditions and into the regional and social class variations in perinatal mortality and morbidity.'

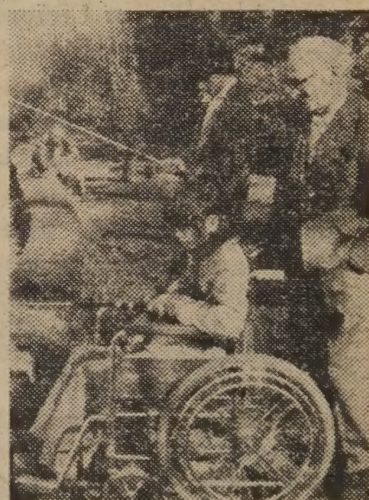
Mr James Loring, Director of the Spastics Society, thanked the Secretary of State and said it was the fervent hope of all who work in the field of handicap that more finance could be made available for more research and improved services.

## New skills bring new enjoyment to leisure

JOHN Roberts, the Society's regional officer in Wales has organised a recreation course for 16 disabled people at the Jane Hodge Home near Cowbridge, Glam. Among the recreations offered were crafts, photography and fishing, and we are grateful to Mrs Gwen Griffiths who gave instruction in knitting, collage, and weaving; to John Donkin from the Barry Photography Club for his lectures, and to Mr Philip Lewis for his instruction on fishing at Talygarn Lake.

The cost of the course was met through the joint efforts of the Wales Regional Fund, Friends of Mena House, Penarth; Pembrokeshire Spastics Society, Monmouthshire Spastics Society, Pontypridd Spastics Society and Dyfed County Council, and Llanelli area.

It was a very successful course and most of the people who attended are continuing to enjoy their new skills.



BRONWEN Jones, who works at the Cwmbran Work Centre, and Mark Cantello, who works at Sully, pictured fishing at the lake under the watchful eye of Bill Hargreaves, head of Recreational Services.



PETER Stephenson happily displaying his mosaic tiled teapot holder.



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## Whistle stop tour for 'Save a Baby' special

THE train pulling out of Brighton on October 6 is the Society's 'Campaign special' calling at Portsmouth, Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, Newcastle, Sheffield and Leeds.

British Rail's magnificent red and yellow exhibition train will be covering thousands of miles of English countryside carrying the Campaign message with it. Its coaches will be

turned into a moving exhibition cinema and conference centre with members of the Executive Council on board along with local dignitaries and personalities to get the message across to the public.

The first coach will explain the campaign by means of displays, followed by a showing of the Susan Hampshire film made at the Society's Ingfield Manor School in the second, while in the third coach

will be medical authorities and others connected with the Society's work.

Former Premier Ted Heath who travelled on the train promoting his books, is writing to various companies encouraging them to contribute to the commercial coach which will fund the train as a whole.

The idea of using the train came from the Society's Fund Raising Director Michael Bro-

phy who commutes to headquarters from his home in Sussex. He hopes that as the super-train hurtles round the country people in the provinces will be encouraged to work away at the campaign which will still have three months to run.

The train's final destination will be Marylebone Station, London, and the Society's pre-annual general meeting reception will be held on board.

## More homes from Habinteg



SIR Keith Joseph, MP, unveils a plaque at the official opening of Clifford Court, a Habinteg development at Ossett in Yorkshire, on May 26. To the left of the plaque is Mr Alex Moira, Chairman of Habinteg, and a Vice-Chairman and founder member of The Spastics Society. Looking on are Clifford Court residents and their guests.

The estate is designed to integrate able-bodied and handicapped tenants, and consists of 51 flats and six houses, 16 of which have been allocated to the disabled. It was built by the Habinteg Housing Association with the help of The Spastics Society.

All the flats for the disabled are well equipped with modern fittings,

ramped access and wide doors. There is a community assistant on hand to help residents with their shopping and with any

emergencies which may arise. All the flats for the disabled are connected with her house by intercom.

## It's a fag—but you meant to give up smoking didn't you?

DO you want to give up smoking cigarettes?

If so, The Spastics Society can help you, in conjunction with Action on Smoking and Health. Together they are organising a sponsored 'No Smoking' campaign.

It is suggested that smokers wishing to give up, get their friends and relatives to sponsor them for every day in July that they do not smoke.

The money raised by this will go to The Spastics Society's 'Save a Baby' Campaign which aims to reduce the needless handicapping of babies in the United Kingdom. One aim is to help educate pregnant women about the ways in which they can help themselves to have a healthy baby. One important factor is that smoking is particularly harmful to unborn babies.

Medical research and information programmes can now state quite confidently that if all the knowledge at present available were to be put into practice, at least 40 per cent of all cases of spasticity could be prevented and healthy, normal babies could be born instead.

The Spastics Society is pressing the government to institute a proper perinatal programme on the lines of that which has been mounted in France with extremely good results. It is also trying to raise £2 million for further research. Money raised by the sponsored 'No Smoking' Campaign will go towards this fund.

For information on how to give up smoking and a sponsor form please contact David Saint, 76 Cambridge Road, Kingston-on-Thames KT1 3LB, or phone 01-549 5988.

### Nest eggs

AN auction sale of 'squeakers' — young pedigree racing pigeons — has resulted in a donation of £267.50 to the Dorset Spastics Society.

The auction, organised by the Bournemouth South Road Flying Club, included birds donated by some of the leading lofts in the country.

### Knockout!

A HOUSE-TO-HOUSE collection has raised £8,327 for the Croydon, Sutton and District Spastics Society. The group was able to call on over 1,000 collectors for this magnificent effort.

## Day £3,000 went down the drain...



THE month of May has been anything but merry for regional appeals officer Alisia Hunt, of Old Windsor. It has gone down in the Meteorological Office's records as the wettest ever as Alisia knows to her cost and the cost is an estimated £3,000!

For that is the amount she had expected to raise from the walk round Windsor Great Park which she had spent the previous four months organising. The walk has become a traditional money-raiser over

the last seven years and Alisia had arranged for 2,000 children from 25 schools to take part.

And then the rain came. It washed out the walk completely.

'The route was absolutely soaked,' said Alisia, 'parts were under two feet of water and for two miles the children would have to walk on grass before they got to the path and that could have been dangerous. It really is a desperate blow.'

Picture by Uxbridge Evening Mail.

## Wedding day smiles — and a stylish carriage



THE end of a long engagement for Linda Tucker and John Gillette, members of Blackpool and Fylde Spastics Group, pictured on their wedding day.

Linda, who is spastic, and John, suffering from muscular dystrophy, met at the group's work centre. They were engaged for four years while awaiting suitable housing. Now they have been allocated a purpose-built flat in sheltered accommodation.

Picture by West Lancs Evening Gazette.

THERE was a stylish carriage for the wedding of Eileen Spink and Robin Venn, members of the Watford '62 Club run for spastics by spastics. Eileen was a secretary of the club until last year and Robin is at present vice-chairman.

The chief bridesmaid was Anne Pearce, present secretary of the Watford '62 Club, who has been a friend of Eileen's since they met at the Society's Office Training Centre in 1962. And the bridal carriage—the vintage car shown in the picture — belongs to Miss Pearce's father.



### SPASTICS NEWS

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